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NEWS RELEASE

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Winter Fortymile Caribou Season Shortened

The State of Alaska winter hunting season for Fortymile caribou under Registration Hunt RC867 opens December 1, and the part of Zone 1 accessible from the Steese Highway will close after 2 days of hunting at 11:59 p.m. Tuesday night, December 2, 2014.

“Enough caribou are present in Zone 1 that we expect the harvest during the first two days of the season to reach the quota of 283 caribou in that zone,” said Tok Area Biologist Jeff Gross.

In addition, the winter hunting season will not open in the southern portion of Zone 3 (Taylor Highway area), south of a line that passes through the Fortymile River bridge (Milepost 112.6 of the Taylor Highway, 64° 18.535’ N. latitude).

The area in Zone 3 north of this line will open as scheduled on December 1.

The southern portion of Zone 3 will remain closed because large numbers of Nelchina Herd caribou are present. Nelchina caribou may not be legally harvested in Unit 20E under registration permit RC867.

“The caribou south of the Fortymile River bridge right now are almost all Nelchina caribou. I don’t expect very many Fortymile hunters to be affected by the closure in that area,” Gross said.

Southern Zone 3 will open if the Nelchina Caribou Herd leaves the area.

The winter quota of 472 caribou is divided between the 2 road-accessible portions of the hunt area: 283 caribou in the Steese Highway–Chena Hot Springs area in Units 20B and 25C (Zone 1) and 189 caribou in the Taylor Highway area in Unit 20E (Zone 3).

Fortymile Caribou hunting is not open in Unit 25B.

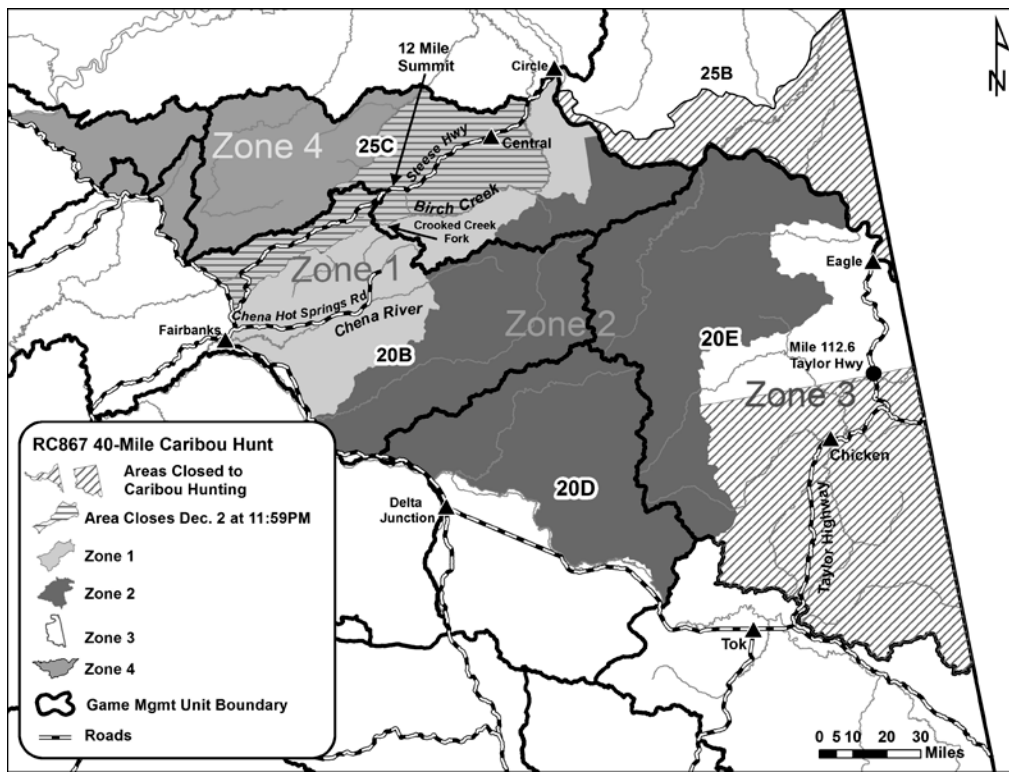
Hunters are advised to phone the Fortymile Caribou Hotline at 907-267-2310 before departing for the field to obtain the most current information on status of the hunt.

These changes only apply to state caribou hunts in these areas. The federal caribou hunt on federal lands is not affected by these changes. Hunters with questions about federal subsistence regulations should call (800) 478-1456.

Successful hunters must report within three days of the kill on the internet at <http://hunt.alaska.gov>, or in person or by phone to the ADF&G office in Tok (883-2971). Hunters who report by phone must also mail their permit reports or drop them off to the Tok ADF&G office. Unsuccessful hunters must return their reports to the Tok office or report online at <http://hunt.alaska.gov> within 15 days of the close of the season.

Hunters are urged to obtain a receipt when they turn in their hunt reports or to mail them by delivery confirmation receipt. Permit holders who fail to report will not be allowed to obtain registration, drawing, or tier I and II permits next year, and may be cited for a violation of the Alaska hunting regulations.

The Alaska Board of Game endorsed the Fortymile Caribou Herd Harvest Plan (harvest plan) as a means of guiding harvest of the herd from 2012 through 2018. The harvest plan allocates all available Fortymile Herd harvest to a hunt area, divided into 4 Zones, south of the Yukon River in portions of Units 20B, 20D, 20F and 25C and all of Unit 20E. Management is designed to allow the Fortymile Herd to continue to grow and expand within habitat limitations into its former range in Alaska and Yukon. At about 50,000 animals, the Fortymile Herd is the largest caribou herd in Interior Alaska.



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